(c) and (d) Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)'s recommendations are available in respect of 33 vacant Board levelposts. The appointment to Board level posts are made by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments on the basis of recommendations of PESB after completing formalities in this regard such as obtaining vigilance clearance and approval of competent authority, etc.

Supply of gas from D6 block, KG basin

3794. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the production from D6 block, KG basin of a private contractor is going to start;

(b) whether the company proposes to supply the full production to Government;

(c) whether the company has made any other commitment to some other parties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) In the KG basin D6 block, operated by Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), Natural Gas production is likely to commence by 3rd quarter of 2008.

(b) As per the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract, the Contractor has the freedom to sell the gas in the domestic market on arms length basis. Government has option to take its share of profit petroleum in kind or cash. The Government has opted to take its share of profit petroleum in cash for the year 2008-09.

(c) and (d) At this stage, RIL has signed term sheets for supply of gas with GAIL and with power and fertilizer sector companies, namely Torrent Power, Tata Power, Konaseema Power, Nagarjuna Fertilizers, GVK Power, IFFCO, Chambal Fertilizers and Kribhco. The matter of sale of gas to NTPC and RNRL, is presently *sub judice*.

LPG connections in Jharkhand

3795. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections the oil companies released for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and company-wise specially with reference to Jharkhand; and

(b) how many are still waitlisted for LPG connections, State-wise and company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 1.04.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have provided 1009.9 lakh LPG connections in the country, including 11.3 lakh LPG connections in the State of Jharkhand.

OMCs have reported that they have released 58423, 103544 and 103321 new LPG connections in the State of Jharkhand during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

The State-wise and company-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process OMCs have reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that against the waiting list of 46,955 as on 1.3.2008, the waiting list has reduced to 25,077 as on 1.4.2008 for release of new LPG connections with their distributors in the country. This waiting list is expected to be liquidated by 15.05.2008. There is no waiting list pending with the OMCs for release of new connections in the State of Jharkhand. The State-wise details of waiting list position as on 1.04.2008 is as under:—

STATE/UT	NOS.
West Bengal	3794
Chhattisgarh	500
Madhya Pradesh	800
Kerala	19916
Lakshadweep	67
ALL INDIA	25077

Purchase of oil reserves abroad

3796. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is investing Capital in foreign countries for the purchase of oil reserves;

(b) if so, the details of capital amount invested during the last three years and till date; and

(c) the present status of the oil project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government encourages oil Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) to acquire oil and Gas assests abroad.

(b) Oil PSE's have reported that they have made an investment of Rs. 18,174.53 crore during last three years in the overseas Exploration and Production (E&P) projects.

(c) The projects are at various stages of exploration, in six project production has commenced. These six projects are located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Syria and Columbia, contributing production of crude oil to 6.832 Million Metric Tonnes and natural gas to 1.928 Billion Cubic Meter in the year 2007-08.

Gas pipeline for Goa

3797. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for laying the gas pipeline passing through Belgaum to the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in this regard;

(c) whether any estimate has been made in this regard;

(d) the details of the estimated length of the pipeline passing through Goa; and

(e) by when the details of the decision will be communicated to the State Government of Goa?